

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 27 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

PRC PUBLISHED 20-YR-OLD MAO SPEECH SUNDAY THAT ARGUED WAY
DEAL WITH COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES WAS "KILLING NONE AND
ARRESTING FEW." SPEECH, NEVER BEFORE FULLY PUBLISHED,
DEALT WITH "10 PROBLEMS" THEN FACING COUNTRY--ESSENTIALLY
SAME ONES NOW FACING HUA (UPI, NYT).

UPI (HK) CITES NCNA REPORT THAT AGRIC PRODUCTION IN 6 OF
PRC'S 26 PROVINCES "SUFFERED SERIOUS DISRUPTION" IN PAST FEW
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YEARS BECAUSE OF POL STRUGGLE THAT SOMETIMES TURNED VIOLENT;
ADDED THAT RICH/POOR POLARIZATION RE-EMERGING (WP, WSTAR
12/26).

PEKING USED MAO'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY TO REAFFIRM
OPPOSITION TO SOVIET REVISIONISM. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT,
NCNA REPORTED NE COAL MINE DEVASTED IN JULY SEVERE EARTH-
QUAKE HAS RESTORED PRODUCTION TO PRE-QUAKE LEVELS (WP).

GROC PM CHIANG SAID SAT 254 PERSONS SERVING JAIL TERMS IN COUNTRY FOR SEDITIOUS ACTIVITIES; INVITED INTL ORGANIZA-

TIONS INVESTIGATE. NYT SPEC (TAIPEI 12/26) SUGGESTS THIS FIRST ROC DISCLOSURE ON POL PRISONERS APPARENTLY SPURRED BY INCREASING US CONCERN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND BY RECENT PUBLICITY ABROAD CHARGING COUNTRY WITH POL REPRESENTATION.

GTE SAYS IT WAS AWARDED 13-MIL-DOL GROC CONTRACT TO INSTALL ELECTRONIC PHONE SWITCHING EQUIPMENT IN TAIPEI; WILL CONSTITUTE LARGEST SINGLE SYSTEM OF KIND IN FAR EAST (WSJ 12/24).

2. SINGAPORE

PM LEE'S PAP SWEEP SINGAPORE PARLIAMENTARY VOTE, TAKING ALL 69 SEATS UP FOR ELECTION (WP, WSTAR 12/24). THREE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS ARRESTED WITHIN HOURS OF PAP VICTORY (WSTAR 12/25).

3. MICRONESIA

ATT'Y GEN LEVI DENIES REPORTS JUSTICE DEPT APPROVED WIRE-TAPS ON MICRONESIAN DELEGATES (AP,SUN).

4. NAURU

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NAURU PARLIAMENT VOTES ITS FIRST PRES, HAMMER DEROBURT, OUT OF OFFICE--ELECTS BERNARD DOWIYOGO AS REPLACEMENT (AP, NYT 12/24).

5. VIETNAM

VNA REPORTS CATHOLICS CROWDED SAIGON/HANOI CHURCHES FOR XMAS MASSES (WP; UPI, NYT).

6. LAOS

WP'S EADS (VIENTIANE 12/25) SAYS LAOS WILL SOON APPEAL TO US, INTL ORGANIZATIONS, AND "OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES" FOR HELP IN CURBING OPIUM/HERION TRAFFIC. ASSERTS LAO GOVT MAY FACE UPHILL STRUGGLE IN SUCH EFFORT IF INTL AID NOT FORTHCOMING.

7. PHILIPPINES

PRES MARCOS SAID SUNDAY HIS GOVT WILL HOLD PLEBISCITE IN 13 SOUTHERN PROVINCES ON FORMING AUTONOMOUS MUSLIN REGION WITHIN PHILIPPINES REPUBLIC (AP SUN, WP, NYT). MARCOS ORDERED RELEASE 1,527 PRISONERS IN KEEPING WITH CHRISTMAS

SPIRIT, ACCORDING SUNDAY PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ANNOUNCEMENT (AP, SUN).
PLEBISCITE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME 2 DAYS AFTER CEASE-FIRE WENT INTO EFFECT IN PROVINCES (AP, WP 12/25; WSTAR 12/25; AP, SUN 12/24).

8. THAILAND

LAT'S MCARTHUR (12/23) OUTLINES BACKGROUND GEN KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN. STATES HE "CLEARLY THE FIRST AMONG EQUALS" ON JUNTA. REPORTS "DIPLOMATIC COCKTAIL CIRCUIT" ALREADY BUZZING W/RUMORS NEW COUP.
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COMMUNIST INSURGENTS KILL 22 GOVT SOLDIERS IN NAN PROVINCE AMBUSH--TOLL TERMED "WORST SINGLE LOSS" BY GOVT SINCE START GUERILLA WARFARE (NYT, UPI; SUN, AP).

9. BURMA

PRESS NE WIN MARRIES YADANA NAT MAI, 46, IN SIMPLE BUDDHIST CEREMONY (WP).

10. INDONESIA

CSM'S HARLEY (12/24) WRITES AI CHALLENGES INDONESIAN CLAIMS RE POL PRISONERS. AI HAS "REASON TO BELIEVE" UP TO 100,000 HELD, RATHER THAN 29,000 CLAIMED; ALSO FEELS 2,650 PRISONERS RECENTLY "RELEASED" MERELY "RESETTLED." INDONESIAN EMB SPOKESMAN WASH DENIES CHARGES.

11. KOREA

SEOUL APPEALS COURT EXPECTED HAND DOWN NEW SET SENTENCES 12/29 TO KIM DAE JUNG/OTHER MYONGDONG DISSIDENTS (NYT, SEOUL 12/26).

HOUSE REP LEADER JOHN RHODES SAYS HE REJECTED SK HONORARY DEGREE/FREE TRIP ROK OFFERED HIM. RHODES FREQUENTLY CALLED ON BY VISITING ROK PARLIAMENTARIANS--CLAIMS "FINALLY GOT PRETTY TIRED OF THAT." RHODES NOTES HE FAVORS REDUCING US TROOPS IN SK, BUT WANTS AIR POWER RETAINED THERE (WSTAR, AP 12/26)

WP'S LARDNER (12/25) SKETCHES ROLE SEN INOUE AS CHAIRMAN SENATE INTELL CMTE. CURRENT CMTE UNDERTAKINGS INCL CHECKING REPORTS CIA ACTIVITIES MICRONESIA, AND PROBING CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES US OF "FRIENDLY" INTELL AGENCIES SUCH AS KCIA.
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READER "PERSONALITY PARADE" (PARADE MAG, WP 12/26) ASKS WHY USG ALLOWS KCIA/SAVAK "OPERATE WITH IMPUNITY" HERE. FEATURE'S WALTER SCOTT ANSWERS, "BECAUSE THEY PERMIT AGENTS FROM OUR CIA TO OPERATE WITH IMPUNITY IN SOUTH KOREA AND IRAN."

NYT AGAIN CARRIES HALF-PAGE AD FOR KOREA GINSENG CENTER, NOW OPEN AT 65 E 59TH ST, NYC--AD PLACED BY ROK OFFICE OF MONOPOLY.

12. KOREA

TAKEO FUKUDA BECOMES LDP PRES/PM JAPAN (WP'S SAAR, WSJ;S THARP, SUN'S SEIDEN, NYDN UPI, WSTAR AP, 12/24). FUKUDA URGES REJUVENATION OF LDP, PICKS OHIRA AS PARTY SEC'Y GEN (NYT'S MALCOLM 12/24). YOUNGER MEN APPOINTED CABINET, WITH IICHIRO HATOYAMA NAMED FORMIN (WP'S SAAR, WSTAR UPI, 12/25; SUN'S TAKAYAMA 12/26). FUKUDA CALLS FOR EARLY JAPAN-US SUMMIT CONF, AND MEETING LEADERS ADVANCED NATIONS (NYT AP, WP, WSTAR 12/26).

OECD SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW SAYS US/GERMANY/JAPAN "SOARING AHEAD" OF POORER NON-COMMUNIST INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, AND MUST MAKE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD WORLD ECON RECOVERY (WP'S COOK 12/14, SUN AP 12/24).

NIPPON KEIZAI REPORTS JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS DECIDED APPOINT ITS VICE MIN, SHOJI SATO, AMB TO PRC (WP AFP).

SONY CORP POSTS RECORD EARNINGS/SALES FOR FY ENDING OCT 31--PREDICTS FURTHER INCREASES THIS YR, AND SAYS WILL RAISE DIVIDEND (WSJ 12/24).

BOEING SELLS THREE 737 JETS TO SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO, OKINAWA, FOR 22 MILL DOLS--DELIVERIES SCHEDULED FOR 1978/79 UNCLASSIFIED

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(WSJ, NYT 12/24).

JAPANESE COS SPENT MORE ON ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSES IN YR ENDING LAST JAN 31 THAN JAPAN ALLOCATED FOR ITS NATL DEFENSE--THE 6.77 BILL DOLS INVOLVED WAS 34 PERCENT MORE THAN THE NATL DEFENSE BUDGET (WSJ 12/24).

13. GENERAL

LESCAZE IN QP REPORTS THAT USIA IS "JITTERY" OVER THE FUTURE STATUS OF VOA. QUOTES LEONARD MARKS AND WALTER BASTIAN AS SUPPORTING CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOA. QUOTES KENNETH GIDDENS ARGUING THE NEED FOR GREATER FREEDOM. SAYS A CARTER INSIDER INDICATES THAT THE STANTON COMMISSION

REPORT BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. VOA'S NEWS DIVISION CHIEF IS QUOTED AS SAYING HIS PEOPLE "INTIMIDATED," "SHOCKED," "HOUNDED" (BY USIA/STATE BUREAUCRATS). CITES

INABILITY TO COMMENT ON DEATH OF MAO, DECREED BY DOS AS PRIME EXAMPLE UNDUE POLITICAL CONTROL.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

14. CHINA

JOHNS HOPKINS' EN LUTTWAK (WP 12/26), RECENTLY IN PRC, REPORTS SQUALOR, POVERTY OF CHINESE LIVING IN PEKING'S ALLEYS/COURTYARDS--SCENE BEHIND FACADE RARELY SEEN BY TOURISTS. SAYS TRUE PICTURE CHINESE MASSES' LIVING CONDITIONS WILL ONLY BE WRITTEN ABOUT BY NEWSPAPERMAN VISITOR WHO MAKE HIS OWN PRIOR DECISION NOT SEEK SECOND VISA, AND WHO CAN BE COUNTED UPON SERVE US, NOT CHINESE.

TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S MUNRO (TACHING) SAYS POSSIBLE OIL FIELD THERE HAS PEAKED, MAY BE ON VERGE RAPID DECLINE (NYT).

SUN'S WU (HK) FEELS SUNDAY APPEARANCE HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED MAO SPEECH APPEARS INDICATE CHAIRMAN'S GOALS STILL UNCLASSIFIED

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SIDERED VALID. OBSERVES CELEBRATION MAO'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY ALSO APPEARED USED AS OCCASION ENHANCE HUA'S PRESTIGE. SEES INDICATIONS NEW PRC LEADERS THINKING OF MOVING TOWARD CLOSER ECON/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES AFTER REMOVAL "GANG OF FOUR'S" REPORTED OBSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE.

MATHEWS (WP HK 12/25) CONTENTS HUA GOVT HAS STUMBLER INTO DISAGREEMENT/CONFUSION THAT IS SLOWING RECOVERY COUNTRY'S BATTERED GOVT. SEES HUA'S NEW TROUBLES GROWING FROM WILLINGNESS CHINESE PEOPLE IN CERTAIN PARTS COUNTRY TO THUMB NOSES AT LOCAL AUTHORITIES; SECOND, CHINESE LEADERS FAR MORE RELUCTANT USE ARMED FORCE TO SUPPRESS CIVIL DISORDER THAN HAS BEEN SUPPOSED.

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD (HK 12/24) SAYS ANALYSTS THERE PUZZLED BY PROLONGED ABSENCE WU TEH FROM PUBLIC VIEW. SUGGESTS PEOPLE'S DAILY'S REFERENCE TO "GANG OF FOUR" AS "ACTIVE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" MAY BE WAY OF PREPARING NATION FOR RADICALS' PUNISHMENT, OR COULD BE INTENDED AS WARNING TO THEIR FOLLOWERS (REPRINTED IN SUN 12/24).

15. HONG KONG

WSJ'S LINDA MATHEWS (HK 12/24) FINDS TOY INDUSTRY THERE THRIVING; BUT NOTES PAY SURGE/FOREIGN RIVALS STIR WORRY.

16. PHILIPPINES

JE DREW ("COORDINATING COUNCIL, FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE") WRITES 12/24 WSTAR DEPLORING REPORTED RECENT US OFFER OF BILLION DOLS IN RENT PAYMENTS FOR PHILS' BASES, SINCE MANILA GOVT GUILTY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST OWN CITIZENS.

17. INDOCHINA
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ANTHONY LEWIS IN NYT SAYS ALTHOUGH NO FIRSTHAND INFORMATION FROM WESTERN SOURCES AVAILABLE ON CONDITIONS IN CAMBODIA COMMON STORY STATED BY REFUGEES INDICATES " A CRUSHED SOCIETY LIVING UNDER CONDITIONS OF TERRIFYING BRUTALITY." US POLICY PLAYED A PART IN BRINGING CAMBODIA TO ITS PRESENT STATE. REFERS TO SHAWCROSS ARTICLE IN LONDON TIMES (12/12) AS "PAINFUL READING FOR AMERICAN WHO BELIEVE IN THEIR COUNTRY'S IDEALS." SHAWCROSS'S VIEW CAMBODIA'S WOES STEM-MING FROM US FAILURE TO HEAD OFF POLARIZATION WHEN LON NOL OVERTHREW SIHANOUK AND CHINESE SOUGHT TO ASSIST IN ACHIEV-ING A SETTLEMENT. US INVASION A WEEK LATER MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE HE SAYS. CITES ROLES OF ENDERS (PLANNING CAMBODIA BOMBING) AND SULLIVAN ("THE JUSTIFICATION IS THE RE-ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT"). NOTES THAT THESE TWO OFFICIALS ALONG WITH OTHERS SIMILARLY INVOLVED HAVE GONE ON TO DISTINGUISHED POSITIONS. CONCLUDES WITH A QUOTE BY SECSTATE SAYING "I MAY HAVE A LACK OF IMAGINATION, BUT I FAIL TO SEE THE MORAL ISSUE INVOLVED."

PATRICK BUCHANAN (NYDN) COMMENTS ON BOOK PUBLISHED BY READER'S DIGEST PRESS ENTITLED "P.O.W.; A DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF AMERICAN POW EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM, 1964-73" BY JOHN HUBBELL. SAYS CARTER PEOPLE SHOULD READ BOOK ESPECIALLY IN VIEW THEIR PLANS FOR AMNESTY OF VIETNAM DRAFT DODGERS WHOSE ACTIONS CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH THE HEROISM OF MANY OF THE POWS.

18. KOREA

CITING PROPOSAL THAT ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL SALARY BE INCREASED FROM 44,500 TO 57,500 DOLS, MCGRORY QUESTIONS REWARDING "CAPITOL HILL POORMOUTHS...WHO GAVE US...KOREAN SANTA CLAUS, TONGSUN PARK"; OR MORE PAY FOR LIKES OF REP MCFALL WHO PUT 4,000 DOL PARK DONATION IN OFFICE ACCOUNT BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ILLEGAL TO ACCEPT
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CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM FOREIGNER (WSTAR 12/26)

NOTING CONGRESS RECENTLY HAS HAD ONE MAJOR SCANDAL--SK

CONNECTION--WP'S SEIB (12/24) FEELS IF QUESTION WERE ADDRESSED TO CROSS-SECTION AMERICANS, "HOW DOES A CONGRESSMAN MANAGE TO LIVE HIGH, WIDE AND HANDSOMELY," REPLY WOULD BE: "HE AUGMENTS HIS SALARY BY ACCEPTING MONEY AND OTHER GIFTS AND SOCIAL FAVORS" FROM GROK REPS.

19. JAPAN

CSM ASSERTS FUKUDA WILL FACE TOUGH JOB IN REUNITING SPLINTERED LDP, REDUCING FACTIONALISM. POLITICAL CONCESSIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR EFFICIENT GOVT OPERATION. UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS NEXT SUMMER LOOM AS MAJOR TEST. FUKUDA COMMENDED ON POLITICAL SKILL USED IN CABINET BALANCING--PROBLEM NOW IS HOLD ON TO REINS OF POWER.

JOC'S CULLIONS VIEWS FUKUDA AS VETERAN CONSERVATIVE POL WHO WILL MOVE CAUTIOUSLY, YET ONE WHO WILL SUCCEED IN STIMULATING JAPAN'S ECONOMY WITHOUT REKINDLING INFLATION RATE.

WSJ'S LACHICA FEELS FUKUDA'S NARROW MARGIN OF VICTORY WILL FORCE HIM NEGOTIATE TERMS FOR JAPAN'S ECON RECOVERY RATHER THAN DICTATE THEM. NOTES PM'S DEALINGS W/OPPOSITION WILL BE FIRST TEST ABILITY GOVERN.

NYT'S DAHLBY (12/26) DOES LONG FEATURE ON JAPANESE PRODUCTION CB RADIOS AND CURRENT SERIOUS MARKETING PROBLEMS DUE FCC APPROVAL USE NEW 40-CHANNEL MODELS AS OF JAN 1.

NYT'S MALCOLM DOES PIECE (12/26) RE COMPLEXITY/EFFICIENCY JAPANESE POSTAL SYSTEM.

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20. CARTER APPOINTMENTS

THERE WAS EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY DURING THE LONG WEEKEND ON THE NEW CABINET. DIRECTLY RELATING TO EA INTERESTS WERE THOSE WHICH DEALT WITH THE WIDESPREAD INVOLVEMENT WITH VIETNAM EXPERIENCED BY A NUMBER OF NEW APPOINTEES.

GREIDER IN WP NOTES THAT THE CARTER CAMPAIGN SLOGAN IS NOW BECOMING "WHY NOT THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST." NOTES THAT AT LEAST SIX APPOINTEES "WERE THERE WHEN THE BIG LIES WERE TOLD IN THE SIXTIES. NONE OF THEM SPOKE UP, AT LEAST NOT SO THEY COULD BE HEARD BY THE PUBLIC." ALSO NOTES THE INTERLOCKING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MANY OF THE APPOINTEES STEMMING FROM POSITIONS WITH IBM, CALTECH, COCA-COLA, TRILATERAL COMMISSION AND OTHER COMMON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS.

MARDER IN WP SAYS THAT CARTER SEEKING TO REINFORCE HIS OWN

LIMITED WORLD AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE BY CALLING ON VETERANS OF
THE KENNEDY/JOHNSON ERA. SAYS THE VIETNAM WAR "IS A PAIN-
FULLY SHARED COMMON EXPERIENCE AMONG CARTER'S APPOINTEES
WHO WILL SHAPE FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS."
BELIEVES THAT CARTER WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD NOT HAVE AN
EARLY MEETING WITH EITHER BREZNEV OR THE CHINESE.
ROBINSON

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